

and refugees, regardless of immigration status. Arnoldo and the National Network bases their efforts in the principles of equality and justice, and seek the enfranchisement of all immigrant and refugee communities in the United States through organizing and advocating for their full labor, environmental, civil and human rights. Arnoldo recognizes the unparalleled change in global, political and economic structures which has exacerbated regional, national and international patterns of migration, and emphasizes the need to build international support and cooperation to strengthen the rights, welfare and safety of migrants and refugees.

Mr. Speaker, Individuals in my district are the motivating force behind the remarkable organizations that promote civic engagement among Latinos in the 9th Congressional District. Leaders like Marta Higuera, a Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action field representative, helps BOCA fulfill its mission of creating a coalition of interfaith congregations throughout the city of Berkeley. Marta's leadership has been instrumental in having BOCA meet the needs of the Latino community. She persuaded the Berkeley High School English Language Learners program to translate forms and documents into Spanish for parents. In addition, Marta has organized immigration town halls and fundraisers to support our community members who are in most need.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor the achievements of outstanding Hispanic Americans—like Jovita Solis, Arnoldo Garcia, and Marta Higuera—we know that celebrating the Hispanic community for just one month not enough. All Latinos deserve a real opportunity to achieve the American Dream, whether they have been here for generations or just arrived to our shores. Hispanic dreams and values are undoubtedly American dreams and values.

#### REGARDING THE "ACCOMPLISHMENTS" OF THE 109TH CONGRESS

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am so glad my colleagues on the other side of aisle feel that they can look the American people in the eye and say "we have done enough for you this session in Congress, we have earned a vacation. It is high time for us to adjourn."

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me translate what the Republicans are actually saying: "We choose rather to go on vacation then to attend to the needs of the American people."

It seems the Grand Old Party's leadership had a grand old time this year, deciding to recess after having spent the fewest number of days in session in our lifetime.

Pitifully, in comparison to the typical American worker who spends approximately 247 days a year laboring, Congressional members will have worked less than 100.

Mr. Speaker this is not simply a "do nothing Congress" as so many of my colleagues have said before me. This is just as much a "do nothing right Congress."

And the American people understand this reality all too well. Remarkably, a recent CBS

News/New York Times poll found 75 percent of voters can't name one thing Congress has accomplished this session.

Well my friends, I can't really either. Republican priorities rolled out this session were strictly those that helped them advance politically. They chose to fritter away scarce time debating frivolous proposed constitutional amendments banning flag burning and gay marriage instead of real issues Americans at home are concerned with.

As we end this session, Republican leadership has only passed 2 of the 11 required spending bills—quite a feat when you consider that both chambers of Congress are of the same party.

If this Congress were a school, students here would certainly receive an "F."

The list of their failures reads like a laundry list almost too long for me to recount right now:

In a gross display of negligence, Congress has failed to enact an annual budget this year.

Even though for nearly a decade the federal minimum wage has remained stagnant, Congress this year has again failed to negotiate a pay raise for working class Americans. And Congress also failed to negotiate deals on vital tax breaks for college tuition costs or research and development tax credits for businesses.

In response to the profusion of the Republican culture of corruption this year, Republicans have decided to do . . . zilch. Add Congressional failure to enact lobbying reform this year to the list.

Congress has failed to achieve health insurance reform and failed to finalize nuclear negotiations with India.

In response to sky high gas prices, increased signs of global warming and even President Bush's admission that America is far too reliant on foreign oil, Congress has failed to produce a real energy plan this session. Congress packs its bags to go, refusing to mandate higher levels of fuel efficiency standards or propose incentives for consumers or product makers to utilize alternative energy sources.

Congress leaves while nearly 12 million undocumented workers are hiding in the shadows of our society. After all the hype and rhetoric of passing an immigration bill, no true immigration reform has been realized this Congress.

Is the list of things left undone too lengthy, too repetitive, and too tiresome? Am I boring this Congress? There are still many more demonstrations of what little progress this Congress has made.

And what little has been done has been done badly! Important bills are being rushed through to secure a Republican majority in the next Congress. The latest example being the tyrannical anti-terror law, allowing Congress to reinterpret international law to authorize torture. A law that despite its name, nonetheless makes our troops less safe, leaves our Nation unprotected, and successfully damages our international credibility.

Of all the bills that have actually passed this Congress, how many of them have actually improved the lives of Americans?

What do have to show our constituents back home in our districts? An unstable economy, ridiculously high health care costs and gas prices, a loss in life abroad and a loss of our basic freedoms here at home.

More than 5 years after 9/11, numerous reports have shown that the war on Iraq is hurting our Nation in the war against terrorism. Our borders still remain exposed and our first responders still lack adequate resources to respond to either another 9/11 or another Katrina.

While we spend approximately \$2 billion a week on defense, Osama bin Laden is still alive and well, and Al Qaeda is resurging in Afghanistan stronger than ever before. Iraq is engulfed in sectarian violence and civil war and has become the breeding ground for a new generation of terrorists.

The war in Iraq has stretched our resources and troops thin, leaving us exposed to potential global terrorists and nuclear threats from nations such as Iran and North Korea.

Americans, I insist that you ask this question to yourself before you go to the ballot box this November:

What has the Republican Congress done for me these last 2 years? If you can not think of a single thing, you are not alone. Please think of a new Congress that would attend to your priorities here and overseas before you select your next elected official.

#### THE SECURE FENCE ACT OF 2006

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6061. This bill will not improve U.S. national security and will clearly not provide for meaningful immigration reform.

I voted against the construction of a fence spanning our entire southern border in December, when the House unfortunately passed H.R. 4437, the Border Security Act of 2005. It is disappointing that the Republican leadership has chosen to spend the time debating a provision that has already passed the House, rather than go to conference and pass comprehensive immigration reform that will protect American workers and secure our borders. This House should be addressing issues like raising the minimum wage, providing health care and quality education to every child in America, and ensuring that our State and local law enforcement agencies have the resources they need to keep our streets safe. Not rehashing a border fence provision that has already been voted on in the last 12 months.

Once again, I strongly believe that Congress needs to work to secure our borders and ensure the safety of our citizens. However, this bill is inadequate and clearly will not begin to address the complicated issues regarding immigration reform. Even the small effort authorized in this bill—a 700-mile fence along our southern border with Mexico—is not fully funded. Nor does this legislation contain the resources necessary to increase the number of border security agents. This is nothing other than an election year ploy to use a serious issue that affects workers, immigrants, and our communities as a scare tactic.

America deserves immigration reform that will work. The Republicans have had months to appoint a conference committee and work out the differences between the President's approach and the bills put forward by the

House and Senate. Clearly, the majority is not truly interested in solving this problem.

I hope my colleagues will oppose this bill and will join me in urging Republicans to get serious about this issue and to focus more on the security of this country than the security of their jobs.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
MASSACRE AT BABI YAR

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 65th anniversary of the massacre at the Babi Yar ravine near Kiev, Ukraine. On September 29, 1941, German occupying forces ordered the city's Jewish population to assemble at the ravine. The Jews complied, assuming they would be placed in a ghetto.

Instead, they were herded together and ordered to strip. Nazi machine gunners then systematically and brutally cut them down. That first day more than 33,000 Jewish men, women, and children were put to death. As the war continued, more mass slaughters occurred at Babi Yar; by the end, more than 100,000 people are thought to have been murdered there.

We mourn the tragic deaths of these innocent people at Babi Yar, along with the 55 million who perished in other places, during the Holocaust and World War II, as a result of the brutal and sadistic policies of Adolf Hitler.

To prevent future genocides, we must dedicate ourselves to the promotion of human rights for all people. Humanity should never again have to suffer through such a nightmare.

As the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to Congress, I am firmly committed to this effort. Since early 2004 I have been working to draw the world's attention to the genocide that is occurring in Darfur, Sudan. The international community must act now to safeguard innocent lives in Darfur, as I noted in a September 26 Financial Times op-ed piece—which I would like to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—and in legislation that passed the House this week (H. Res. 723). This resolution calls on the President to take immediate steps to help improve the security situation in Darfur, and particularly to protect civilians.

Unfortunately, while the world community in general has been quick to condemn the genocide, mobilization in support of the Sudanese civilians has been slow. Evidently, the world needs reminding that the genocide in Darfur, like the Holocaust before it, is not just a local crisis. It is a crisis for all humanity and obliges all of us to act with urgency. Words without deeds trivialize the lessons that humanity professes to have learned from the Holocaust, and they betray the people of Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to reflect on the tragedy currently occurring in Darfur, and to recommit themselves to making every effort to end such global outrages.

[From the Financial Times, Sept. 27, 2006]

WE MUST MOBILIZE PRESSURE AND FEAR TO  
SAVE DARFUR

(By Tom Lantos)

History will regard the situation in Darfur, Sudan, as an African holocaust if the international community fails to protect innocent lives. The African Union's decision late last week to extend its mandate in Darfur has bought just three more months for the rest of the world to persuade Sudanese leaders not to start another round of slaughter. Khartoum still refuses to agree to let United Nations peacekeepers take over from the AU troops when they go home.

The U.N. Security Council voted last month to deploy 20,000 peacekeepers to replace the AU troops; the Sudanese government immediately rejected that resolution and announced that the AU had no authority to transfer its mission to the U.N. Then Sudan began to fan out more than 30,000 of its troops, allegedly to bring peace and stability to Darfur and to protect civilians.

Imagine if Hitler had offered to "protect" Europe's Jews. As a Holocaust survivor, I cannot think of a more despicable act than to have Khartoum send soldiers—who have raped and slaughtered thousands and displaced 2 million people—to "protect"—civilians.

Evidence is mounting that the Sudanese government is positioning air and ground forces to complete the genocide in Darfur that began 3 years ago. There is ample reason to fear a full-scale and imminent onslaught against civilians.

The U.S. government declaration calling the situation in Darfur genocide and a growing international civilian movement raised the expectations of the helpless. But we have failed to galvanize sufficient global commitment to protect victims of genocide. The May 5 signing of the Darfur peace agreement seemed to offer a ray of hope that the darkest days were behind the innocent men,

women and children of Darfur. But that agreement is now on the verge of collapse because of resurgent violence.

The international community must put actions behind its now myriad words and commit to civilian protection by supporting the transition of the AU mission to the U.N. NATO must also broaden its support to the AU through this perilous and crucial transition to a U.N. peacekeeping mission that should deploy with or without the consent of the Sudanese government.

The past few years have shown that two things move Khartoum—pressure and fear. After September 11 2001, the thugs in the government there feared the consequences of harbouring Osama bin Laden and his terrorist cohorts, and they began to co-operate in the war against terrorism.

We must now mobilize those two powerful factors in the interest of civilian protection in Darfur, hold Khartoum's leaders accountable for the atrocities that continue to take place and make sure that Darfurians can return safely to their homes.

Whether to end genocide in Darfur is not a choice for Khartoum to make; it is a requirement to avoid not only international condemnation and isolation, but also an imposed civilian protection regime. I was proud to author a resolution calling on George W. Bush, the U.S. president, to take immediate steps to help improve the security situation in Darfur, with a specific emphasis on civilian protection (H. Res. 723).

If Khartoum continues to reject the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers, an imposed civilian protection regime in Darfur should be the priority of the AU, the U.N., NATO, the European Union and the U.S. government. I will continue to push for the immediate deployment of Nato assets as part of a transitional operation to stop the atrocities while the U.N. forces are deployed.

If Khartoum persists in pursuing genocide, I support military action to neutralize those military forces employed by Sudan to attack civilians or to inhibit peacekeepers from their deployment. Khartoum must be made to understand that there will be severe consequences for a further genocidal assault on the people of Darfur. Its reaction to the Security Council resolution authorizing a peacekeeping operation is no surprise. Neither is its attempt to bully the AU into submission by issuing an ultimatum for the union to reject the U.N. resolution or leave Darfur.

Evidently, the world needs reminding that the genocide in Darfur is not just an African crisis. It is a crisis for all humanity and obliges all of us to act with urgency. Words without deeds betray the people of Darfur.